

appropriation "Pay of the Navy," and reimbursement in kind shall be made from the appropriation "Outfits on first enlistment," and in cases involving persons in the Marine Corps reimbursement in money shall be made from the appropriation "Pay, Marine Corps," and reimbursement in kind shall be made from the appropriation "Clothing, Marine Corps," respectively, current at the time the claim covering such loss, damage, or destruction is paid: *And provided further*, That the provisions of this Act shall apply to the personnel of the Coast Guard in like manner as to the personnel of the Navy, whether the Coast Guard is operating under the Treasury Department or operating as a part of the Navy, and all of the duties, which, under this Act, devolve upon the major general commandant of the Marine Corps with reference to the personnel of that corps, shall devolve upon the captain commandant of the Coast Guard, and in cases involving persons in the Coast Guard reimbursement in money shall be made by a disbursing officer of the Coast Guard from the appropriation "Coast Guard" and reimbursement in kind shall be made by the captain commandant from the appropriation "Coast Guard."

Approved, October 6, 1917.

Coast Guard.
Provisions applicable
to.

Authority of officers.

CHAP. 86.—An Act Providing for an amendment to section twenty-two hundred and ninety-three of the Revised Statutes, allowing homestead and other public land affidavits to be taken before the military commander of any person engaged in military or naval service of the United States.

October 6, 1917.
[H. R. 5082.]

[Public, No. 71.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That during the continuance of the present war with Germany, and until his discharge from service, any man serving in the armed forces of the United States, who, prior to the beginning of his services was a settler, an applicant, or entryman under the land laws of the United States, or who has, prior to enlistment, filed a contest, with the view of exercising preference right of entry therefor, may make any affidavit required by law or regulation of the department, affecting such application, entry, or contest, or necessary to the making of entry in the case of the successful termination of such contest awarding him preference right of entry, before his commanding officer as provided in section twenty-two hundred and ninety-three of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which affidavits shall be as binding in law and with like penalties as if taken before the Register of the United States Land Office.

Public lands.
Affidavits of persons
in service during the
war may be made be-
fore officer of armed
force.

R. S., sec. 2293, p. 421.
Legal effect, etc.

Approved, October 6, 1917.

CHAP. 87.—An Act Amending the Act to increase the limit of the cost of certain public buildings, and so forth.

October 6, 1917.
[H. R. 6094.]

[Public, No. 72.]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the public buildings Act, approved March fourth, nineteen hundred and thirteen, entitled "An Act to increase the limit of cost of certain public buildings, to authorize the enlargement, extension, remodeling, or improvement of certain public buildings, to authorize the erection and completion of public buildings, to authorize the purchase of sites for public buildings, and for other purposes" (Public Numbered four hundred and thirty-two), and all other authorizations and appropriations passed in pursuance thereof for the construction of a post office at Durant, Oklahoma, be, and the same are hereby, amended so as to

Durant, Okla.
Use of funds for pub-
lic building at, ex-
tended.
Vol. 37, p. 875,
amended.

authorize and appropriate the use of funds apportioned to Durant, Oklahoma, for the construction and equipment of a United States post office and other Government offices at Durant, Oklahoma.

Approved, October 6, 1917.

October 6, 1917.
[H. R. 6175.]

[Public, No. 73.]

CHAP. 88.—An Act Giving the United States Shipping Board power to suspend present provisions of law and permit vessels of foreign registry and foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the Act of August eighteenth, nineteen hundred and fourteen, to engage in the coastwise trade during the present war and for a period of one hundred and twenty days thereafter, except the coastwise trade with Alaska.

Shipping.
Coastwise trade permitted to registered foreign-built vessels, etc., during the war.

Vol. 37, p. 562; Vol. 38, p. 698.

Provisos.
Permits required.

Preference to American owned, etc.

Alaska trade not included.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That during the present war with Germany and for a period of one hundred and twenty days thereafter the United States Shipping Board may, if in its judgment the interests of the United States require, suspend the present provisions of law and permit vessels of foreign registry, and foreign-built vessels admitted to American registry under the Act of August eighteenth, nineteen hundred and fourteen, to engage in the coastwise trade of the United States: *Provided,* That no such vessel shall engage in the coastwise trade except upon a permit issued by the United States Shipping Board, which permit shall limit or define the scope of the trade and the time of such employment: *Provided further,* That in issuing permits the board shall give preference to vessels of foreign registry owned, leased, or chartered by citizens of the United States or corporations thereof: *And provided further,* That the provisions of this Act shall not apply to the coastwise trade with Alaska or between Alaskan ports.

Approved, October 6, 1917.

October 6, 1917.
[H. R. 6306.]

[Public, No. 74.]

CHAP. 89.—An Act To provide for the payment of six months' gratuity to the widow, children, or other previously designated dependent relative of retired officers or enlisted men on active duty.

Navy.
Six months' gratuity to beneficiaries of officers, etc., dying in service extended to retired officers, etc., on active duty in the war.
Vol. 37, p. 329, amended.
Vol. 38, p. 938.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the paragraph of the Act approved August twenty-second, nineteen hundred and twelve, entitled "An Act making appropriations for the Naval Service for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and thirteen, and for other purposes," as amended by the Act of March third, nineteen hundred and fifteen, which provides for the payment of six months' gratuity to the widow or children or other previously designated dependent relative of a deceased officer or enlisted man on the active list of the Navy and Marine Corps, be, and the same is hereby, amended by inserting after the words "on the active list of the Navy or Marine Corps" a comma and the words "or of any retired officer or enlisted man serving on active duty during the continuance of the present war."

Approved, October 6, 1917.

October 6, 1917.
[H. R. 6310.]

[Public, No. 75.]

CHAP. 90.—An Act Granting the consent of Congress to the Trumbull Steel Company, its successors and assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Mahoning River, in the State of Ohio.

Mahoning River.
Trumbull Steel Company may bridge, Warren, Ohio.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the consent of Congress is hereby granted to the Trumbull Steel Company and its